

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 23, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Claims 1 – 10 are currently pending in the application.

The present invention is directed to a coaxial cable connector including a pair of ground contacts and a center contact wherein the center contact and the pair of ground contacts are maintained in parallel planes with the center contact positioned between the ground contacts in a stripline geometry. As is discussed at least in paragraphs 75 – 80 and illustrated in Figures 10b and 11, a stripline geometry connector is a connector that includes a center conductor sandwiched between two wider ground conductors. The general formula defining the impedance produced by the stripline geometry is represented by equation (2) on page 16 of the application. Figure 11 illustrates the electric field distributions formed when a stripline geometry connector is used to couple two coaxial cables. Using a stripline geometry connector establishes an asymmetric field distribution about the connector (see Figure 11, electric field 195).

Claims 1 and 4 – 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,975,950 to Yamaguchi. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to claim 1, the Yamaguchi reference clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest a stripline geometry connector, as defined in the specification. On the contrary, the Yamaguchi reference discloses a box-type connector. From the specific configuration illustrated and described in the Yamaguchi reference, the connector disclosed therein could not establish an asymmetric field distribution about the connector. Specifically, in the Yamaguchi reference, the specific configuration of the center conductor 3 (a box 5 having an interior tongue 5a) and the ground conductor 16 (another box 18 which surrounds the center conductor) simply would not provide the field distribution illustrated in Figure 11 and therefore can not be considered a stripline geometry, as defined in the specification.

It is well known that an inventor can be his/her own lexicographer and may define terms in the specification. To this end, Applicants have defined the meaning of stripline geometry connector (see paragraphs 75 – 80 and figure 11). The connector disclosed in the Yamaguchi reference simply does not meet such a definition as would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art.

With regard to claim 8, while the Examiner has listed several elements of the claim in his rejection, he has failed to note that the Yamaguchi reference teaches or discloses a connector that includes a center and ground contacts that "form an asymmetric electric field distribution about said housing, said asymmetric electric field distribution having flux density focused in major areas extending outward from opposite sides of said center contact." The Examiner has made no reference to this feature and as such has not established a prima facie case that the Yamaguchi reference teaches or discloses each and every element of the claim.

Furthermore, it is Applicants' contention that the Yamaguchi reference simply does not teach or suggest a connector that will form an asymmetric electric field distribution as recited in claim 8.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 8 and the claims dependent upon them are patentably distinct from the applied reference. It is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection and issue a notice of allowance at the earliest possible time.

If the examiner has any questions regarding the presently pending claims which could be easily resolved by a telephone conference, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' representative at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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